

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CU-02 USIA-06 /021 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:GRBEYER:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA/EGY - MR BEYER

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P 182245Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, EG

SUBJECT: SYNCHRONIZED SWIM TEAM'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. SENATOR WEICKER'S OFFICE (CONN - R) TELEPHONED US TODAY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FOR THE SYNCHRONIZED SWIM TEAM OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT, WHICH HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING, DIVING, WATER POLO, AND SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING MEET IN CAIRO SEPTEMBER 7-10. THE HAMDEN TEAM, WHICH IS THE NATIONAL AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC AND NATIONAL CHAMPION, HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEET BY DR. FATHI EL GUINDI, HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EGYPTIAN SWIMMING FEDERATION, 13, KFR EL NILE STREET, CAIRO. FOUR GIRLS AND ONE OFFICIAL HAVE BEEN INVITED BUT THE AAU HAS ADVISED THE EGYPTIAN SWIMMING FEDERATION THAT THE REGULAR NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS EIGHT GIRLS AND TWO OFFICIALS. PARTICIPANTS ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY BEING INVITED FROM FRANCE AND DENMARK. THE HAMDEN GIRLS AGES ARE FROM 14 - 20.

2. IF THE SWIM TEAM IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEET IT WOULD HAVE TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER 5. THIS LEAVES VERY LITTLE TIME TO RAISE FUNDS REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE GIRLS' TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE. HAMDEN SPONSORS

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HAVE THEREFORE CONTACTED SENATOR WEICKER'S OFFICE TO RE-

QUEST HIS ASSISTANCE IN POSSIBLY SECURING A FREE FLIGHT ON EGYPTAIR FROM LONDON TO CAIRO AND RETURN TO LONDON OR FARES AT A REDUCED RATE. THE HAMDEN TEAM IS PREPARED TO PUT ON EXHIBITIONS AND CLINICS TO IN PART REIMBURSE FOR THEIR FREE OR REDUCED FARES ON EGYPTAIR. WEICKER'S OFFICE WAS ALSO IN TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE WHICH PROMISED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO DR. GUINDI ASKING THAT HE APPROACH EGYPTAIR FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE HAMDEN TEAM. THE EMBASSY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT BE ASKED TO ALERT THE EMBASSY AND ESPECIALLY THAT PAO RUGH MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO EGYPTAIR ON BEHALF OF THE HAMDEN TEAM.

3. PLEASE ADVISE EGYPTAIR'S REACTION TO REQUEST TO ASSIST HAMDEN TEAM ASAP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE205673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GRBEYER:CEK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0660
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760841/aaaabjhz.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYNCHRONIZED SWIM TEAM'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: SCUL, EG, US
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006